

What happens to other territories is important to Guam because it may affect us in ways that are not readily apparent. I want Guam to be a Commonwealth. I want to help advance political status discourse on Guam and on other areas. I have cosponsored H.R. 3024 for the resolution of the Puerto Rico political status issue.

I appreciate the problems of the approach outlined in this bill, but I hope to advance the discussion for Puerto Rico in a way that I wish others would also help to advance the discussion for Guam. And there is in this legislation a fundamental admission about the territorial policy of this country. That admission is that the political status issue is never fully resolved until a territory becomes a State or its sovereignty is recognized.

This legislation admits that the United States has colonies which are awaiting the final resolution of their status. The final resolution may be closer for some than for others, but we will all need to cross that bridge in the future. In the meantime, we can make the path to that bridge more beneficial for all concerned, whether we call that path unincorporated territory or Commonwealth.

REVERSE THE PROCESS OF SPENDING MORE AND GETTING LESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I want to refer to articles in today's newspapers, not only here in Washington, but also across the country, in which the President recently traveled to New Jersey. He has continued his campaign, both to scare the American people and seniors, and also those concerned about the environment.

I think it is important that we set the record straight. In fact, the President said, and let me quote, "The GOP-controlled Congress is cutting Federal safeguards to cater to corporate interests. A small army of very powerful lobbyists literally have descended on Capitol Hill, as if they own the place." It makes good campaign rhetoric, but it just "ain't" the truth, Mr. Speaker.

The fact is that the people who represent cities and towns and States have descended on this new Congress. Let me quote the New York Times again, the New York Times of March 24, 1994: "In January, 1994, mayors from 114 cities and 49 States urged the White House to focus on how environmental policy-making had gone awry." That is the true story. "Mississippi and Vermont were among the first to appoint panels of citizens and scientists to examine our environmental policy. In published reports both State panels concluded that the largest sums of monies were being spent on the least threatening environmental problems."

Mr. Speaker, let me tell the Members, the story goes on and on. Let me tell you what the mayor of Columbus said. This is his quote: "What bothers me is that new rules coming out of Washington are taking money from decent programs and making me waste them on less important problems. It kills you as a city official to see this kind of money being spent for nothing."

Let me tell the Members, Mr. Speaker, what this debate is all about. This debate is about command and control in Washington, DC. We would think there are a lot of Federal EPA officials working in the States and trying to improve the environment. Wrong. Let me show the figures of what we have done. First of all, there are nearly 7,850 Federal EPA employees. Of that, there are 5,924 in Washington, DC, within 50 miles of where I am speaking right now. There are almost 6,000, just under 6,000. In fact, a dozen years ago there were not that many in the entire EPA program. In Atlanta, in a regional office, one of 10 regional offices, there are 1,287 bureaucrats.

This whole debate is about this bureaucracy that we have built up. EPA was a Republican idea. The department creating an agency of environmental protection was a Republican idea in 1972, to set some national standards. We should do that. We can do that without this huge bureaucracy. These folks are not in our States. For example, there are only 67 EPA Federal employees in the State of Florida, out of this mass of Federal bureaucrats.

Then the President talked about Superfund. Let me tell you, there is no greater example of a failure of a government program than Superfund. It does not clean up the sites. There are thousands of sites. They have only cleaned up a handful. Over 80 percent of the money goes for attorney's fees and studies. Then what do they do? Does the polluter pay? Here is a headline: "EPA lets polluters off the hook."

Right now they let people off the hook. They do not pay under current law. That is what we think needs to be changed here. So Republicans have a better idea. We think that we are spending more and getting less, and we should reverse that process.

Then, are we cleaning up the riskiest sites to human health, safety, and our children? The fact is, no. I have here a GAO study of 1994. It is absolutely appalling that we are not cleaning up the sites that pose the most risk to human health, safety, and welfare. This report says, in fact, and let me quote: "Although one of EPA's key policy objectives is to address the worst sites first, relative risk plays little role in the agency's determination of priorities."

Do Members know what does determine their priorities? Political pressure. That is what this report says. So a program that was originally, according to this report, going to cost \$1.6 billion has grown to \$75 billion. It is not cleaning up the sites and it is letting

polluters off the hook. We think that is wrong.

SUPPORT HIGHER EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Puerto Rico [Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, the proposed 1996 spending package for education is unacceptable. Once again, the country's children and youth will be made to pay.

Under the current budget, education programs have been forced to operate at greatly reduced funding levels, to the detriment of students in school districts all across the country.

The appropriation bill provides for additional funds for certain programs but does so only on a contingency basis. And what is the contingency? Agreement to cut vital entitlement programs. In the name of balancing the budget, children are being pitted against each other. Now, we have seen everything.

Once again, college and college-bound students may lose an opportunity to pursue higher education.

How many talented, intelligent, young men and women will be deprived of the opportunity of a higher education?

Many students who are qualified and prepared to enter college, will simply not be able to go. Low- and middle-income families who have worked hard, saved their earnings for many years, will find it more difficult—if not impossible—to pursue higher education.

It is an uncontroverted fact that American voters strongly support Federal aid to college students. Americans believe that by providing financial aid for people who want to go to college, the Federal Government is investing in America's future.

Despite, this fact, the latest House version of the bill would cut \$756 million for Pell Grants, eliminate funding for capital contributions for Perkins Loans, and eliminate funding for the Student Incentive Grant Program, which provides invaluable support to low-income college students.

Thousands of students in Puerto Rico and all over the country will be affected.

While Congress is slashing the education budget here in Washington, elsewhere legislators are recognizing the importance of supporting higher education, and regretting that they ever tried to balance their budgets at the expense of higher education. In Virginia, legislators reached an agreement on the Virginia budget this weekend in which higher education will get \$400 million more over the next 2 years. The numbers in that budget tell that the No. 1 priority is education.

In Puerto Rico, as well, the State government is honoring its commitment to education. But Puerto Rico's